GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:15
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2007
HYDRO POWER GENERATION
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the matter of time and cost-overrun of almost all hydro power projects set-up so far and tardy execution of such projects;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to implement the proposed projects to avoid such losses in future;

(c) whether the Government has also examined the issues of rehabilitation and resettlement of people who have so far been affected due to the setting up hydro power projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement and monitor rehabilitation and resettlement packages for future projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 10.08.2007 REGARDING HYDRO POWER GENERATION.

(a) : Yes, Sir. A Standing Committee headed by Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Power with representatives of Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Programme Implementation examines the causes of time and cost overrun of all hydro power projects implemented by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) which have suffered time overrun of over 10% and/or cost overrun above 20% with a view to identify causes and fix responsibility for the same.

(b) : To avoid time and cost overrun in ongoing/proposed hydroelectric projects, the following measures have been taken:

The Standing Committee on time and cost overrun of hydroelectric projects observed in a number of cases, that the exploration done at the time of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage was not sufficiently rigorous. The exploratory drifts and drill holes in some of the cases did not reach the tunnel level and the evaluation of rock mass and the rock mass classification adopted by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in their geo-technical report was only tentative. It has, now been decided to get more comprehensive geo-technical investigations done prior to investment decision and detailed investigations carried out before the project is taken for execution to minimize geological surprises at the time of actual execution.

Steps have been initiated to tie up necessary funds in CPSU projects before commencement of project execution so that there is no delay in project execution during construction due to constraint of funds.

Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened to achieve targets by designating a nodal officer in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for each project. The nodal officer keeps track of construction of the project and facilitates resolution of problems which may delay the project by escalating the issue to appropriate levels for immediate resolution.

Site visits are made by officers of CEA to the various projects under construction and various bottlenecks are identified and solutions thereof are decided in consultation with the project authorities. Meetings are held at project sites with equipment suppliers and other contractors executing the major works of dam, head race tunnel, power house etc. for solving the constraints delaying the execution of the projects.

Review of progress both at project and corporate office level of the organisation implementing the project (weekly at site and monthly at Corporate level).

Coordination meetings by the project authorities with State Governments to avoid delays in acquisition of land and award of resettlement and rehabilitation.

Regular review meetings [exhaustive quarterly review meeting and specific meetings on issues raised by the project

authorities/Central Electricity Authority (CEA)] are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

Installation of computerized project planning and monitoring software at various projects at corporate office and Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority for continuous and intensive monitoring of the projects.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of the project affected people is implemented through the State Government by the project executing agencies. The Central Government through the Ministry of Rural Development have notified the `National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families − 2003 (NPRR-2003)` on 17th February, 2004. The policy essentially addresses the need to provide succour to the assetless rural poor, support the rehabilitation efforts of the resource poor sections, namely, small & marginal farmers, SCs/STs and women who have been displaced.

The provisions in the NPRR-2003 are the minimum to be adopted and applicable to all project affected families whether belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) or non-BPL families. Many State Governments have their own liberalized Resettlement and Rehabilitation policies over and above the basic minimum provisions of the NPRR-2003 for Project Affected Persons. The project executing agencies adopt an R&R Plan which normally exceeds the provisions of the NPRR-2003 and this R&R Plan is agreed upon with the respective State Governments after due consultation with all stakeholders.